

**MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER**

**United Nations  
Information Centre  
(UNIC) Kathmandu**

**UNIC Thumbnail**



School students listening to a lecture on the works of UN.



UN staff members participating in the World AIDS Day programme in the UN House.



UNIC Educational Outreach activity in remote area of Nepal.

United Nations | Nations Unies



*Information Centre*

UN House  
Pulchowk, Kathmandu



UNIC Reference Library

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## UNIC interacts with students in Biratnagar



The National Information Officer of UN Information Centre Ram Babu Shah explaining about UN activities to students of a school in Biratnagar, some 550 Kms from capital Kathmandu. Photo: UNIC

The National Information Officer conducted sessions, consisting of two hours each. This also included intensive Q&As.

UNIC liaised with OHCHR in Biratnagar. They were instrumental in the success of the mission by identifying the high schools and by complimenting UNIC's interactive sessions with inputs from OHCHR perspectives.

The NIO visited 8 private and government high schools and interact with

over twelve to fourteen hundred students of grade 8, 9 and 10. He also visited a group of child laborers and some local NGOs.

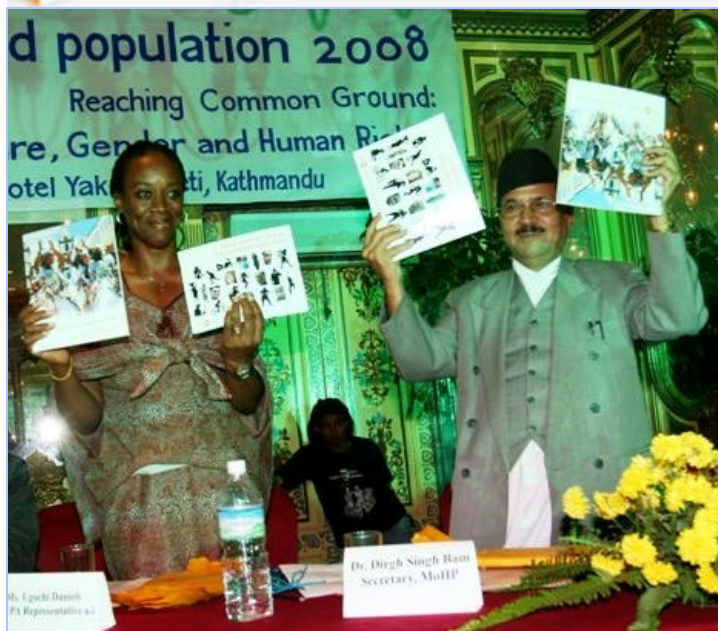
The tool kits that UNIC carried for the sessions and distributions were copies of The United Nations Today, copies of UDHR in Nepali language, literatures on Holocaust, 2008 MDG reports, 60 ways the UN Makes a Difference, Peacekeeping facts and figures, copies of Charter of the United Nations and adequate number of UN posters among other materials.

**KATHMANDU, 20 November:** The National Information Officer (NIO) of UN Information Centre (UNIC) Ram Babu Shah was on education outreach activities with students and teachers which was carried out in the Nepalese town of Biratnagar, 550 kms. east of the capital city Kathmandu. It was a seven day activities from 11 to 17 November. The main objective was the advocacy of the work of the UN at national and international level with special focus on the promotion of 60th anniversary of UDHR with strong reference of Holocaust scenarios in high schools.

NIO on education outreach activities, Photo: UNIC







Right: Dr. Dirgh Singh Bam, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population and Ms. Ugochi Daniels, UNFPA Representative. Photo: UNFPA

**Kathmandu, November 12:** The United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, released its annual report State of World Population. The report was launched in Kathmandu by Dr. Dirgh Singh Bam, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population and Ms. Ugochi Daniels, UNFPA Representative, a.i. with the participation of Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Deputy Representative, OHCHR in Nepal; Santosh Shah, United Nations Youth Advisory Panel; Dr. Navin Thapa, Director, Resource Mobilization & External Affairs (RMEA) Family Planning Association of Nepal.

The report titled 'Reaching Common Ground: Culture Gender and Human Rights' focuses on women's empowerment and gender equality; reproductive health and rights; relation between poverty, inequality and population; and gender and reproductive health in conflict situations. The report cautions that cultural sensitivities do not mean acceptance of harmful traditional practices. Culturally sensitive approaches call for different analytical and operational frameworks, and for introspection among the development community. To develop cultural fluency, UNFPA proposes a "culture lens" as a programming tool.

The full report and its summary may be found at [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

**Downloads:**

**Complete Report:** <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2008/presskit/docs/en-swp08-report.pdf>

**Overall Summary:** <http://www.unfpa.org/swp>



A Nepalese family: Culture is and always has been central to development.

Photo: UNFPA@Peter Bruyneel





UN staff members participating in UN World AIDS Day programme. Photo: UNIC

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator  
Mr. Robert Piper addressing the programme.

**Kathmandu November 28:** The 20th Anniversary of World AIDS Day was marked by the UN in Nepal on 28 November in the UN House amidst a programme. The event was addressed by UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper. He read out UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon's message and spoke about how HIV & AIDS affects members of the UN Family.

"HIV is having a serious impact not just on the work of the UN, but also on the UN as a place of work. Absences, illnesses and deaths due to HIV & AIDS have profound implications for staff, their families and for the UN as a whole. Even in countries, such as Nepal, where HIV is less visible, the UN has an obligation to act," said Mr. Piper.

Conservative estimates by UNAIDS show that 1.5% of all UN personnel worldwide may be living with HIV, be HIV positive. One per cent or more is considered epidemic at the national level.

Since 1991, the UN has had a system-wide HIV workplace policy. The policy states that all staff and their dependents have access to prevention education, voluntary counseling and testing services, and a workplace free of stigma and discrimination.

UN Cares was designed to solve this problem by unifying HIV workplace programmes across the UN system, and "Delivering as One" a comprehensive range of HIV services to all UN personnel and their families. A study has found that the financial savings to the UN of having a programme such as UN Cares would be four times greater than programme costs.

The UN System in Nepal is one of the leaders, globally, in implementing the UN Cares programme. It is led and implemented by the UN Learning Team on HIV & AIDS. 27 members of the UN Learning Team from various UN agencies in Nepal received certificates on the occasion.

A tribute was paid to a local Nepali NGO, The National Federation of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, who were selected among more than 500 nominations globally to be one of 25 winners of this year's Red Ribbon Award for their innovative and sustainable approaches to provide HIV prevention, care, treatment and support to people living with HIV. Representatives from The National Federation of Women Living with HIV/AIDS went to Mexico earlier this year to receive the award. The NGO received the prize money of US\$ 5000 on the occasion.

The Chair of UN Theme Group on AIDS, Mr. Shengjie Li delivered the message of UNAIDS Executive Director Dr. Peter Piot. A UN+ Statement was also given on the occasion. A drama was shown by children affected by HIV/AIDS describing their plights. Dr. Marilyn Borrromeo, Head of UNAIDS Nepal, also spoke on the occasion. Stalls were set up to demonstrate use of contraceptives and counseling.

UNIC NIO was the Master of Ceremony of the programme. Besides, UNIC also ensured the placement of UN System statement on World AIDS Day in various local newspapers which appeared on December 1.

## Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous People visits Nepal

## Human Development Report 2009 Human Development on the Move



Prof. S. James Anaya, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People.

**Kathmandu November 27:** S. James Anaya, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, is on mission to Nepal from 24 November to 2 December.

During the nine-day mission, the Special Rapporteur will travel to Kathmandu and the Eastern, Central and Far-Western regions to hold discussions with government representatives, indigenous communities and civil society groups on such issues as representation and participation of indigenous people in Government; inclusion of indigenous issues in the upcoming Constitution; land and resources; implementation of ILO Convention No. 169, and rights of indigenous women.

In March 2008, the Human Rights Council appointed Prof. Anaya for an initial period of three years. He is the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona (United States).

This is the second country visit of the Special Rapporteur, following a mission to Brazil in August 2008.

Human development is about putting people at the centre of development. It is about people realizing their potential, increasing their choices and enjoying the freedom to lead lives they value. Since 1990, annual

Human Development Reports have explored challenges including poverty, gender, democracy, human rights, cultural liberty, globalization, water scarcity and climate change.



Migration, both within and beyond borders, has become an increasingly prominent theme in domestic and international debates, and is the topic of the 2009 Human Development Report (HDR09). The starting point is that the global distribution of capabilities is extraordinarily unequal, and that this is a major driver for movement of people. Migration can expand their choices— in terms of incomes, accessing services and participation, for example -- but the opportunities open to people vary from those who are best endowed to those with limited skills and assets. These underlying inequalities, which can be compounded by policy distortions, will be a theme of the report.

The report will investigate migration in the context of demographic changes and trends in both growth and inequality. It will also present more detailed and nuanced individual, family and village experiences, and explore less visible movements typically pursued by disadvantaged groups such as short term and seasonal migration.

There is a range of evidence about the positive impacts of migration on human development, through such avenues as increased household incomes and improved access to education and health services. There is further evidence that migration can empower traditionally disadvantaged groups, in particular women. At the same time, risks to human development are also present where migration is a reaction to threats and denial of choice, and where regular opportunities for movement are constrained.

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009>





Demonstration of the rice husk stoves.



Photo: UNDP

Local manufacturers are busy producing the rice husk stoves.

**UNDP/Kathmandu November:** The thumping of hammer can be heard from a distance in the relatively calm Gamariya village of Bara. Local manufacturers are busy producing the rice husk stoves—the latest demand in the village. This has become a very lucrative business for the manufacturers. A person can earn from Rs. 300-500 per stove. The NGO, Nature and Human Development Centre (NHDC), with financial support (US\$ 6,671) from UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme has introduced the rice husk stoves in the Purainiya village where firewood is scarce as there is no forest nearby. “The village is an ideal site for the stove introduction as there are 4 rice mills, which provide plenty of rice husk as raw material for the stoves”, says Mr Raj Kumar Singh.

The introduction of the new technology was not an easy job; the local metal workshop had first to be taught to design the model as it was not their regular job. Finally, Sunder Furniture Industry also had to agree to produce 230 stoves and provide training to potential local manufacturers. People were skeptical as to whether the technology would work or not. The first batch of 71 stoves was distributed free of cost to Dalit communities of Purainiya village. The response was encouraging because 5 kgs of rice husk lasted for

2-7 days, depending upon the family size. “Just put rice husk around the outer layer of the stove, light a piece of paper, throw it in the mouth of the stove, and the stove burns efficiently with red and blue flames”, said Mrs Panabhatiya Devi. She was also happy that the stove produces very less smoke in the house.

In the second lot, 117 heavier stoves were successfully distributed to the Muslim community in Gamariya. The next challenge was to make the technology affordable to local poor

communities. Heavier stoves meant more money. One stove costs from Rs. 1000- Rs. 1500 depending upon the quality iron used. Shanti Devi, a consumer says, “The sudden demand of rice husk in the village also increased the price of rice husk. 5 kgs of rice husk, which earlier cost Rs. 2 has gone up to Rs. 20 but this is still cheaper for us, as we had to spend Rs. 150 per week to purchase firewood for cooking”. The good thing is we can also use chopped straws of paddy and wheat as fuel in the rice husk stove.

### Important WEB resources

#### UN General Assembly 63rd session

English: <http://www.un.org/ga/>

#### 60 ways the UN makes a difference

English: <http://www.un.org/un60/60ways/>

#### Report on the Work of the Organization (A/63/1)

[http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/63/1\(SUPP\)](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/63/1(SUPP))

#### CTBTO launches new website

<http://www.ctbto.org/>

#### Security Council concept paper (S/2008/590)

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/2008/590>

#### Industrial Development Abstracts database (UNIDO)

<http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=o29307>

#### Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009: Who Answers to Women? - UNIFEM

<http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008>

#### ILO rising food prices report

[http://www.ilo.org/global/What\\_we\\_do/Officialmeetings/ilc/ILCSessions/97thSession/comm\\_reports/lang--en/docName--WCMS\\_096121/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Officialmeetings/ilc/ILCSessions/97thSession/comm_reports/lang--en/docName--WCMS_096121/index.htm)

#### UN Treaty Collection

English: <http://treaties.un.org/>



Dhulikhel Municipality wastewater treatment plant. Photo: UNHABITAT

**Kathmandu, November 27:** Cover your nose, if you will, but Dhulikhel Municipality is turning its foul-smelling garbage and human wastes into biogas, manure and water for use in homes. The municipality has installed a wastewater treatment plant, which aims to benefit more than 3000 of its people. Various organisations agreed to establish the plant in hopes that other small towns could replicate it. This is an Asian Development Bank funded Urban and Environment Improvement Project (UEIP).

"The treatment plant has manifold advantages to the community and the area. It is environment friendly; it gives nearly two cylinders of biogas everyday; it yields high-quality compost manure for our crops; and last but not the least, it helps make our holy rivers and rivulets sacred and clean," said Rajesh Manandhar, coordinator of Water and Sanitation Department at UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme.

In technical jargons, a Community Based Wastewater Treatment Plant of Reed Bed Treatment System (RBTS) connects a biogas reactor having capacity of 150-cubic metre at Shreekhandapur in Ward No. 9 of the municipality. The system has been established with the technical support of the Environment and Public Health Organisation (ENPHO) and financial support of the UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal. The present discharge was 103 cubic metres, but the total capacity in design was 205 cubic metres per day, sources said. "The work has already been completed and the production of biogas will start within a few months as it takes time for fermentation," Manandhar said.

Kishore Thapa, joint secretary at the Ministry for Physical Planning and Works, said drainage was the main environmental challenge in the urban development. "We are going to replicate this programme in other cities also," he added. He further said that the government was planning and working for replicating the technology by enabling the management of the wastewater of big cities like Kathmandu. "Now there is a new government and it doesn't accept the proposal for sewage programme until and unless there is a provision of wastewater treatment plant," he said.

The User's Committee has been provided four ropanis of land worth US\$ 26,000 by the municipality and the UN-HABITAT, provided \$90,000 financial support for the construction. Government of Nepal, under funding of Asian Development Bank, has implemented Urban and Environment Improvement Project (UEIP) in eight growth nodes cities surrounding Kathmandu valley to address environmental degradation issues caused by rapid urban population growth in Nepal and Dhulikhel Municipality is one of these.

Based on the efficiency of the wastewater treatment plant constructed in Shreekhandapur, around 30 other RBTs will be constructed in these municipalities under UEIP. Lauding the multifaceted benefits of RBWTS, Thapa said that the government would conduct further research on the effectiveness and efficiency of this program to improve the technology for its replication in other municipalities.



**December 1: World AIDS Day**

In 1988, the General Assembly expressed deep concern at the pandemic proportions of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Noting that the World Health Organization had declared 1 December 1988 World AIDS Day,

the Assembly stressed the importance of observing that occasion (resolution 43/15). URL: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/aidsday/index.html>

**December 2: International Day For The Abolition Of Slavery**

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December, recalls the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (resolution 317 (IV) of 2 December 1949). URL: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/slavery>

**December 3: International Day Of Disabled Persons**

In 1992, at the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the General Assembly proclaimed 3 December as the International Day of Disabled Persons (resolution 47/3). The Decade was a period of raising awareness and enacting measures to improve the situation of persons with disabilities and to provide them with equal opportunities. Subsequently, the Assembly appealed to Member States to highlight the observance of the Day in order to further integrate people with disabilities into society (resolution 47/88).

**December 5: International Volunteer Day**

International Volunteer Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 40/212 on 17 December 1985.

**December 7: International Civil Aviation Day**

The United Nations General Assembly by resolution officially recognized 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day and listed it as an official UN day. The purpose of the global celebration is to generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation in the social and economic development of States, and of the role of International Civil Aviation Organization in promoting the safety, efficiency and regularity of international air transport.

**December 9: International Anti-Corruption Day**

By resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, the General Assembly designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day. This decision was taken in order to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in combating and preventing it. URL: [http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/events/anti\\_corruption](http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/events/anti_corruption)

**December 10: Human Rights Day**

Respect for human rights and human dignity "is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world", the General Assembly declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1950, all States and interested

organizations were invited by the General Assembly to observe 10 December as Human Rights Day (resolution 423(V)). The Day marks the anniversary of the Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Over the years, a whole network of human rights instruments and mechanisms has been developed to ensure the primacy of human rights and to confront human rights violations wherever they occur. URL: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights>

**December 11: International Mountain Day**

The UN General Assembly designated 11 December as 'International Mountain Day'. This decision results from the success of the UN International Year of Mountains in 2002, which increased global awareness of the importance of mountains, stimulated the establishment of national committees in 78 countries and strengthened alliances through promoting the creation of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, known as the 'Mountain Partnership' (WSSD, Johannesburg, 2 September 2002).

**December 18: International Migrants Day**

On 4 December 2000, the General Assembly, taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world, proclaimed 18 December International Migrants Day (resolution 55/93). On that day, in 1990, the Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (resolution 45/158). Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to observe International Migrants Day through the dissemination of information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and through the sharing of experiences and the design of actions to ensure their protection. URL: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/events/migrants>

**December 19: United Nations Day For South-South Cooperation**

By resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly decided to declare 19 December United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. This was the date on which the General Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. The Assembly also urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives. URL: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/events/south/index.html>

**December 20: International Human Solidarity Day**

International Human Solidarity Day was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2005 as an initiative in the fight against poverty. (A/RES/60/209).



## UN Resource Materials

UNIC Kathmandu Online (<http://kathmandu.unic.org>)

## UN Nepal

## ADB

<http://www.adb.org>

## FAO

<http://www.fao.org>

## ILO

<http://www.ilo.org>

## IMF

<http://www.imf.org>

## OHCHR

<http://nepal.ohchr.org>

## OCHA

<http://www.un.org.np>

## UNAIDS

<http://www.unaids.org>

## UNCDF

<http://www.uncdf.org/nepal>

## UNDP

<http://www.undp.org.np>

## UNESCO

<http://www.unesco.org/kathmandu>

## UNFPA

<http://www.unfpanepal.org>

## UN-HABITAT

<http://www.unhabitat.org>

## UNHCR

<http://www.unhcr.org>

## UNIC

<http://kathmandu.unic.org>

## UNICEF

<http://www.unicef.org>

## UNIFEM

<http://www.unifem.org>

## UNMIN

<http://www.unmin.org.np>

## UNODC

<http://www.unodc.org>

## UNV

<http://www.unv.org>

## WB

<http://www.worldbank.org>

## WFP

<http://www.wfp.org>

## WHO

<http://www.nep.searo.who.int>

## Comments or Suggestions

## United Nations Information Centre | UNIC Kathmandu

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UNIC Kathmandu

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## UNIC Catalogue

In its constant endeavor to upgrade its service delivery with new and innovative approach through recent Information Technology, UNIC Kathmandu has implemented the electronics library system with internet facility to visitors as well as e-Catalogue for fast and efficient tracking of available contents in reference library.

This catalogue is available online for home users as well as for other individuals.

URL: [http://kathmandu.unic.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73](http://kathmandu.unic.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73)



UNIC Kathmandu is located in the UN House where most of the UN agencies in Nepal are also located. UNIC has a separate entrance for visitors to facilitate their access into the Centre - be it to consult the reference library; to attend

press conferences or for seeking information on UN related issues.

UNIC undertakes extensive press activities, such as organizing press conferences for visiting UN officials, and for other UN agencies located in Nepal. It helps to prepare joint statements for the UN Country Team on various important issues and disseminates statements of the UN Secretary-General and other press releases/news/articles/reports coming from UN Headquarters. It is fully accessible to media persons and visitors during office hours.